

Performance Simulation of a Parallel Dual-pressure Once-Through Steam Generator

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ABSTRACT

The increasing demand for electricity and concern about global warming worldwide mean that electric power generation is required to be more efficient, cleaner, and more cost-effective. Combined-cycle power plants have gradually replaced their simple-cycle counterparts, where the energy of the exhaust gas from prime movers is recovered and used to generate steam and drive steam turbines to generate more useful power. There are two types of devices used to produce steam—one is the conventional drum-type heat recovery steam generator, and the other is the once-through steam generator (OTSG) that has no drum. The performance simulation of the former is relatively mature. However, the performance simulation for the latter is more difficult due to its multi-pressure circuits and moving boundaries between the economizer, evaporator, and superheater in the OTSG. In this research, a novel simulation method for the thermodynamic performance of a parallel dual-pressure OTSG under both design and off-design operating conditions has been developed. The method is applied to an OTSG operating in a combined-cycle gas turbine power plant at Manx Utilities, Isle of Man in the United Kingdom to demonstrate the effectiveness of the simulation method. Meanwhile, the OTSG performance variation caused by inlet gas energy variation and downstream steam turbine erosion are demonstrated. Compared with field data, the simulation results of the OTSG performance show that the novel performance simulation method is successful and provides details of the OTSG thermodynamic performance that may be useful for both OTSG designers and operation engineers.

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Nomenclature

A	=	Heat transfer area (m^2)
$CA_{[-]/[-]}$	=	Ratio of heat transfer area
$Cf_{[-]/[-]}$	=	Heat transfer ratio
d	=	Diameter of tube (m)
EF	=	Steam turbine erosion factor
$f(\cdot)$	=	OTSG system function
G	=	Number of convergence check (DP: $G = 2$; OD: $G = 6$)
h	=	Specific enthalpy (kJ/kg)
$LMTD$	=	Logarithmic mean temperature difference ($^{\circ}C$)
n	=	Iteration step
N	=	Number of prediction points
P	=	Pressure (bar)
PO	=	Power Output (MW)
PP	=	Pinch point ($^{\circ}C$)
Pr	=	Prandtl number
PR	=	Gas turbine compressor pressure ratio
Q	=	Heat rate (kJ/s)
Re	=	Reynolds number
RMS	=	Root mean square
T	=	Temperature ($^{\circ}C$)
U	=	Overall heat transfer coefficient ($W/m^2 \cdot ^{\circ}C$)
W	=	Mass flow rate (kg/s)
X	=	Iteration variable matrix
ΔY	=	The total iterative error
\bar{Z}	=	Measured parameter
Z	=	Simulated parameter

Greek Letters

α	=	Heat transfer coefficient ($W/m^2 \cdot ^\circ C$)
λ	=	Thermal conductivity ($W/m \cdot ^\circ C$)
η	=	OTSG efficiency
$\bar{\gamma}_i$	=	Average prediction error of i th measurement parameter
σ	=	Convergence threshold (1E-05)
ϕ	=	Fin efficiency
ξ	=	Bhatti-Shah friction efficiency
χ	=	Condensing steam wetness

Subscripts

amb	=	Ambient
b	=	Bare tube outside
B	=	Nucleate boiling
$cond$	=	Condensing
$conv$	=	Convective
DP	=	Design point
exh	=	Exhaust
f	=	Fin
GT	=	Gas turbine
HP	=	High pressure
in	=	Inlet
inn	=	Inner side of tubes
LP	=	Low pressure
m	=	Mean
o	=	Outer side of tubes

<i>OD</i>	=	Off-design point
<i>out</i>	=	Outlet
<i>s</i>	=	Single phase water or steam
<i>ST</i>	=	Steam turbine
<i>t</i>	=	Tube
<i>TOT</i>	=	Total outer tube surface

Superscripts

'	=	Function's derivative
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1. Introduction

A heat recovery steam generator (HRSG) is a device that uses the exhaust heat energy from topping cycle as the source of energy to generate steam with high pressure and temperature for process or to drive a steam turbine. Its performance is determined by the thermodynamic conditions of the hot gas and steam flows. A combined-cycle power plant includes three primary units that are gas turbines (GT), steam generators, and steam turbines [1]. There are two kinds of steam generators: a conventional drum-type steam generator, and once-through steam generator (OTSG) without a drum. Many performance simulation models have been successfully developed for the traditional drum-type steam generator [2]-[6] and they are out of the scope of this paper.

Some research on OTSG performance simulation has been done, and the relevant work has been published. Bayless (1979) [7] introduced a performance simulation method for a helically coiled single-pressure OTSG for marine applications where the whole tube is split into equidistant parts, where each part is checked against phase change to determine the rough position of the boundaries between economizer, evaporator, and superheater. Yoon et al. (2000) [8] developed a computer code for design point (DP) performance simulation of a helical OTSG and validated it with available test data. Dumont and Heyen (2004) [9] suggested a two-dimensional simulation method for OTSG DP performance modelling by dividing the OTSG tube into different sections among horizontal and vertical directions. In the above mentioned OTSG models, the simulations are limited to relatively simple single pressure OTSG.

Ngoma et al. (2003) [10] developed a performance simulation algorithm for sequential dual-pressure OTSG. Hamid et al. (2011) [11] proposed a model for a sequential dual-pressure OTSG by evaluating the effect of steam parameters on CCGT performance when the gas turbine exhaust gas maintains at a base load condition. Although sequential dual pressure OTSGs can recover more heat energy and offer better performance than the single pressure OTSGs, their performance improvement is still limited due to relatively low gas temperature at the exit of high pressure OTSG circuit resulting in poor performance of the downstream low pressure OTSG circuit. Therefore, parallel dual-pressure OTSGs have been developed and offer better performance than their sequential dual-pressure counterparts. However, up to now, no publication has reported the simulation algorithms for the parallel dual pressure OTSGs.

This study introduces a new algorithm to simulate the thermodynamic performance of an OTSG with dual-pressure parallel circuit configuration and moving boundaries between the economizer, evaporator, and superheater. The proposed performance simulation algorithm is validated against field data of an OTSG installed and operated at Manx Utilities (MU) in the Isle of Man, United Kingdom. The DP and off-design (OD) performance of the OTSG and the impact of downstream steam turbine erosion on the OTSG performance are simulated to demonstrate the capability of the method.

2. Methodology

The performance calculation of a parallel dual-pressure OTSG can be divided into two steps as follows:

- DP performance calculation, where the OTSG's performance at a specified DP is calculated and critical heat transfer areas are determined;
- OD performance calculation, where the performance of an OTSG under changing exhaust gas and operating conditions is calculated.

2.1 Geometry Structure and Temperature Profiles

Figure 1 [12] shows the typical constructive arrangement of a dual-pressure OTSG, and Fig. 2 shows its temperature profiles along the OTSG gas path, where T_1 is the OTSG inlet gas temperature, T_8 the stack temperature, T_j the HP circuit feed water temperature, and T_h the LP circuit feed water temperature. The HP circuit is divided into three sections, namely (a–d) or (a–b–c–d), (d–i) or (d–m–n–i), and (i–j), where part of the HP circuit (d–i) is in parallel to the LP circuit (e–h). The location of the inlets (i.e., points 1, j and h) and the outlets (i.e., points 8, a and e) of the

gas and steam circuits remain unchanged after being constructed and assembled. Moreover, if two horizontal lines at points h and e are drawn in Fig.1, the four points (i.e. points 7 & i and points 4 & d) can be found respectively. As points h and e (inlet and outlet of the LP circuit) are fixed, the four points (i.e., points 7, i, 4, and d) in the exhaust gas path and in the HP circuit are unchanged for all operating conditions. Therefore, the heat transfer areas of the HP sections (a–d), (d–i), and (i–j) are unchanged, and their relative positions to the LP circuit are also unchanged. Meanwhile, the heat transfer areas of sections (e–h) and (a–j) are the total heat transfer areas of the LP and HP circuits, respectively, and they are unchanged. Hence, even when the boundaries between the economizer, evaporator, and superheater of both the HP and LP circuits in the OTSG are moving, the heat transfer areas of sections (a–d), (d–i), (i–j), and (e–h) are unchanged. The heat transfer sections of HP economizer, evaporator, and superheater are (a–b), (b–c), and (c–j) sections respectively, while the heat transfer sections of LP economizer, evaporator, and superheater are (e–f), (f–g), and (g–h) sections respectively. The temperature slope for the middle section (d–i) of the HP economizer is smaller than that of other parts of the economizer due to lower heat transfer rate because of the adding of the parallel LP circuit. In addition, the heat transfer is balanced between the exhaust gas side and the water or steam sides between any two vertical dash lines, as shown in Fig. 2.

2.2 Basic Concepts and Definitions

2.2.1 Overall Heat Transfer Coefficient

The overall heat transfer coefficient U of finned tube geometry is calculated by Eq. (1) [13]–[15].

$$\frac{1}{U} = \frac{1}{\alpha_o} + \frac{A_{TOT}}{A_{inn}} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha_{inn}} + \frac{d_o - d_{inn}}{2\lambda_t} \right) \quad (1)$$

where α_{inn} is the heat transfer coefficient in the inner tube, α_o the virtual heat transfer coefficient at outer side, λ_t the tube thermal conductivity, d_{inn} tube inner diameter, d_o tube outer diameter, A_{inn} tube inner surface area, and A_{TOT} the total outer surface area.

2.2.2 Heat Transfer Coefficient at Outer Side

The mean heat transfer coefficient at the outer side, α_m , for cross-flow with staggered banks is estimated using Eq. (2) [9],[13],[16].

$$\alpha_m = 0.38 Re^{0.6} \left(\frac{A_{TOT}}{A_b} \right)^{-0.15} \cdot Pr^{1/3} \cdot \frac{\lambda_{exh}}{d_o} \quad (2)$$

where Re is Reynolds number, A_b is bare tube outside surface area, Pr Prandtl number, and λ_{exh} exhaust gas thermal conductivity. By considering tube fins, α_o can be obtained by Eq. (3) [9],[13],[16].

$$\alpha_o = \alpha_m \left[1 - (1 - \phi) \frac{A_f}{A_{TOT}} \right] \quad (3)$$

where ϕ is tube fin efficiency and A_f fin surface area.

2.2.3 Heat Transfer Coefficient at Inner Side

The calculation of the heat transfer coefficient at the tube inner side α_{inn} is classified into two scenarios—a single-phase flow (for economizer and superheater) and dual-phase flow (for evaporator). For single phase flow, the heat transfer coefficient is calculated by Eq. (4) [9],[17].

$$\alpha_{inn} = \frac{(\xi/8)(Re - 1000) \cdot Pr}{1 + 12.7\sqrt{(\xi/8)(Pr^{2/3} - 1)}} \cdot \frac{\lambda_s}{d_{inn}} \quad (4)$$

where λ_s is the thermal conductivity of single phase water or steam and ξ Bhatti-Shah friction factor. For dual-phase flows, the heat transfer coefficient considering both convective and nucleate boiling could be obtained by Eq. (5) [18].

$$\alpha_{inn} = \sqrt[3]{\alpha_{conv}^3 + \alpha_B^3} \quad (5)$$

where α_{conv} and α_B are the heat transfer coefficient of convective flow boiling and heat transfer coefficient of nucleate boiling respectively.

The properties of water or steam were calculated using the formulation proposed by Wagner [19]. The properties of the gas turbine exhaust gas were calculated by NASA computer programme CEA [20] based on the composition, pressure and temperature of the exhaust gas.

2.2.4 Heat Balance

The heat transfer Q between the gas and water-steam flows in OTSG circuits is represented by Eq. (6)

$$Q = W \cdot |h_{in} - h_{out}| \quad (6)$$

where h_{in} and h_{out} are the inlet and outlet specific enthalpy of either the hot side or cold side of an OTSG circuit and W is mass flow rate. The heat transfer in an OTSG section is driven by a logarithmic mean temperature difference ($LMTD$) [21] defined by Eq. (7):

$$LMTD = \frac{(\Delta T_I - \Delta T_{II})}{\ln(\Delta T_I / \Delta T_{II})} \quad (7)$$

where $\Delta T_I = T_{hot,in} - T_{cold,out}$, and $\Delta T_{II} = T_{hot,out} - T_{cold,in}$. The heat transfer rate of any OTSG sections is represented by Eq. (8) [21]:

$$Q = U \cdot A \cdot LMTD \quad (8)$$

where A is the heat transfer area and U is the overall heat transfer coefficient.

2.2.5 Once-through Steam Generator Efficiency

The efficiency of an OTSG is defined by Eq. (9)

$$\eta = (T_1 - T_8)/(T_1 - T_{amb}) \quad (9)$$

where T_1 is the OTSG inlet gas temperature, T_8 is the stack temperature, and T_{amb} is the ambient temperature.

2.2.6 Heat Transfer Ratio

The heat transfer ratio defined by Eq. (10) represents the ratio between the heat transfer of section (x–y) and that of section (u–v), where the former is a subsection of the latter:

$$Cf_{xy/uv} = Q_{xy}/Q_{uv} \quad (10)$$

2.2.7 Ratio of Heat Transfer Areas

Equation (11) defines the ratio between the heat transfer area of section (x–y) and that of section (u–v); the former is a subsection of the latter:

$$CA_{xy/uv} = A_{xy}/A_{uv} \quad (11)$$

2.3 Design Point Performance Calculation of Parallel Dual-pressure OTSG

2.3.1 Input Parameters

Figure 3 shows the simulation flowchart of a parallel dual-pressure OTSG at the DP where the following gas path input parameters are given:

- Gas inlet temperature: T_1
- Gas mass flow rate: W_{exh}
- Ambient temperature: T_{amb}
- HP circuit steam temperature: T_a
- HP circuit steam pressure: P_a
- HP pinch point temperature difference: PP_{HP}
- HP feed water temperature: T_j

- LP circuit steam temperature: T_e
- LP circuit steam pressure: P_e
- LP pinch point temperature difference: PP_{LP}
- LP feed water temperature: T_h
- Heat transfer ratio of section (d–i) over (c–j): $Cf_{di/cj}$
- Heat transfer ratio of section (i–j) over (c–j): $Cf_{ij/cj}$

2.3.2 State Variables

To quantify the heat transfer (Q_{dm} , Q_{mn} , and Q_{ni}) within subsection (d–i) and obtain a DP solution, two iteration variables are selected, as defined by Eq. (10), as follows:

- Heat transfer ratio between section (d–m) and section (d–i): $Cf_{dm/di}$
- Heat transfer ratio between section (m–n) and section (d–i): $Cf_{mn/di}$

2.3.3 Errors and Root Mean Square Error

The heat transfer area is proportional to the length of the tube when the tube cross-section diameter is constant. Meanwhile, it is assumed that the tube length is proportional to the X-axis in Fig. 2, so the heat transfer area is proportional to the X-axis. It can be seen in Fig. 2 that points d and e, m and f, n and g, and i and h have the same flow path locations on the X-axis, respectively. Therefore, $CA_{ef/eh}$ should equal to $CA_{dm/di}$, and $CA_{fg/eh}$ should equal to $CA_{mn/di}$. Thus, two errors are identified as follows:

- $\Delta Y_1 = (CA_{ef/eh} - CA_{dm/di})/CA_{dm/di}$
- $\Delta Y_2 = (CA_{fg/eh} - CA_{mn/di})/CA_{mn/di}$

The Root Mean Square (RMS) of the errors is defined by Eq. (12), required to be less than a threshold σ (1E-05) as convergence criteria.

$$RMS = \sqrt{\frac{1}{G} \sum_{k=1}^G (\Delta Y_k)^2} < \sigma \quad (12)$$

where G is the number of the errors; for DP calculations $G = 2$.

2.3.4 Newton Raphson Method

To satisfy the above convergence criteria, Newton Raphson (NR) iteration method [22] was used to search for an optimal solution of the variables ($Cf_{dm/di}$ and $Cf_{mn/di}$) by Eq. (13) until the RMS of the errors defined by Eq. (12) is less than a threshold σ .

$$X_{n+1} = X_n - f(X_n)/f'(X_n) \quad (13)$$

where X is an iteration variable, n is the number of iterations, $f(\cdot)$ is the OTSG system function that represents an implicit functional relationship between the variables and errors, and $f'(\cdot)$ is the function's derivative that could be obtained through the Jacobian matrix.

2.3.5 Design Point Performance Calculation Algorithm

Figure 3 shows the simulation flowchart for a parallel dual-pressure OTSG DP performance simulation. The calculation for each section of the OTSG and the iterative process are explained as follows:

- (1) The initial values of the two variables $Cf_{dm/di}$ and $Cf_{mn/di}$ are guessed based on experience. Their initial values have influence on the convergence of the iterations. Trial and errors may be used to find their best values. In this study, 0.35 is chosen as the initial value for both variables.

- (2) Section (a–b–c–d) and Section (1–2–3–4)

$T_b = T_c$ is the saturated temperature in the HP circuit that can be calculated once P_a is given. Therefore, T_3 is determined by Eq. (14):

$$T_3 = T_c + PP_{HP} \quad (14)$$

Among the points indicated in Fig. 2, the temperature at positions 1, 3, a, and c are known. Based on the heat balance between the hot side (1–3) and cold side (a–c), the HP circuit mass flow rate W_{HP} can be calculated by Eq. (6). Therefore, T_2 can be obtained based on the heat balance between the hot side (1–2) and cold side (a–b). Q_{cj} can be decided by W_{HP} , T_c , and T_j . Therefore, Q_{cd} can be calculated by Eq. (15).

$$Q_{cd} = Cf_{cd/cj} \cdot Q_{cj} = (1 - Cf_{di/cj} - Cf_{ij/cj}) \cdot Q_{cj} \quad (15)$$

As W_{HP} , T_c , and Q_{cd} have already been determined, T_d can be calculated by Eq. (6) at the HP water circuit (c–d). Based on the heat balance between sections (c–d) and (3–4), T_4 can be determined by Eq. (6).

- (3) Section (d–m–n–i), Section (e–f–g–h) and Section (4–5–6–7)

$Cf_{di/cj}$ is known as an input parameter and Q_{di} can be obtained by Eq. (10). Therefore, T_i can be obtained based on Q_{di} , W_{HP} , and T_d .

$T_f = T_g$ is the saturated temperature in the LP circuit that can be obtained once P_e is given. Therefore T_6 can be obtained by Eq. (16).

$$T_6 = T_g + PP_{LP} \quad (16)$$

Section (d–i) is divided into three sections, (d–m), (m–n) and (n–i). The variables $Cf_{dm/di}$ and $Cf_{mn/di}$ are guessed in iterations where Q_{dm} , Q_{mn} and Q_{ni} can be calculated respectively by Eq. (10) and Q_{dn} , can be calculated by Eq. (17).

$$Q_{dn} = (Cf_{dm/di} + Cf_{mn/di}) \cdot Q_{di} \quad (17)$$

Therefore, T_m can be obtained based on Q_{dm} , W_{HP} and T_d . Similarly, T_n can be calculated. As the temperature at points 4, 6, e, and g are known, the heat transfer rate at the cold side between (e–g) and (d–n) and at the hot side (4–6) can be obtained based on heat balance shown by Eq. (18).

$$W_{LP} \cdot (h_e - h_g) = Q_{eg} = Q_{46} - Q_{dn} \quad (18)$$

Therefore, the LP circuit mass flow rate W_{LP} can be determined, and this is then used to derive the heat transfer rates Q_{ef} , Q_{fg} , Q_{gh} and Q_{eh} by Eq. (6).

T_5 can be calculated via the heat balance between the hot section (4–5) and cold sections (d–m) and (e–f) by Eq. (19) combined with Eq. (6). Similarly, T_7 can be calculated based on the heat balance between the hot section (6–7) and cold sections (g–h) and (n–i) by Eqs. (20) and (6).

$$Q_{ef} + Q_{dm} = Q_{45} = W_{exh} \cdot (h_4 - h_5) \quad (19)$$

$$Q_{gh} + Q_{ni} = Q_{67} = W_{exh} \cdot (h_6 - h_7) \quad (20)$$

(4) *Section (i–j) and Section (7–8)*

As $Cf_{ij/cj}$ is known, Q_{ij} can be obtained based on $Cf_{ij/cj}$ and Q_{cj} by Eq. (10). Hence, the OTSG stack temperature T_8 can be obtain by Eq. (21).

$$Q_{ij} = Q_{78} = W_{exh} \cdot (h_7 - h_8) \quad (21)$$

(5) *Heat Transfer Areas*

From the results of the above calculations, the DP performance of the OTSG is obtained provisionally, and $LMTD$ and the heat transfer areas for each section (A_{ab} , A_{bc} , A_{cd} , A_{dm} , A_{mn} , A_{ni} , A_{ij} , A_{ef} , A_{fg} , and A_{gh}) can be calculated based on the continuation of energy by Eq. (8). Therefore, the heat transfer areas of the whole HP and LP steam circuits can be calculated by Eqs. (22) and (23):

$$A_{aj} = A_{ab} + A_{bc} + A_{cd} + A_{dm} + A_{mn} + A_{ni} + A_{ij} \quad (22)$$

$$A_{eh} = A_{ef} + A_{fg} + A_{gh} \quad (23)$$

(6) *Iterations and Convergence*

$CA_{ef/eh}$ can be calculated by Eq. (24). Similarly, $CA_{fg/eh}$, $CA_{dm/di}$, and $CA_{mn/di}$ can be determined.

$$CA_{ef/eh} = A_{ef} / A_{eh} \quad (24)$$

Therefore, ΔY_1 and ΔY_2 are calculated and the RMS can be obtained by Eq. (12). If the RMS is less than the threshold, the iteration will be terminated and the OTSG efficiency will be obtained by Eq. (9). Meanwhile, the non-dimensional steam flow capacity at OTSG outlets can be obtained. If the convergence criteria are not satisfied, the two iteration variables will be updated by Eq. (13) and the calculations will be repeated from Step (2) using the Newton-Raphson method.

The above calculation process may be used for the preliminary design of a new OTSG where the heat transfer ratios $Cf_{di/cj}$ and $Cf_{ij/cj}$ are specified and the heat transfer areas and OTSG performance are calculated.

2.4 Off-design Performance Calculation Algorithm

2.4.1 Input Parameters

The OD performance of an OTSG refers to an existing OTSG operating at different ambient and operating conditions. The input parameters for the OTSG at OD operating conditions are as follows:

- Gas inlet temperature: T_1
- Gas mass flow rate: W_{exh}
- Steam Turbine Erosion Factor: EF
- Ambient temperature: T_{amb}
- HP feed water temperature: T_j
- LP feed water temperature: T_h

2.4.2 Iteration Variables

The following six parameters in an OTSG system are selected as variables that determine the status of the OTSG:

- HP circuit mass flow rate: W_{HP}
- LP circuit mass flow rate: W_{LP}
- Heat transfer ratio of section d–i over c–j: $Cf_{di/cj}$
- Heat transfer ratio of section i–j over c–j: $Cf_{ij/cj}$
- Heat transfer ratio of section d–m over d–i: $Cf_{dm/di}$
- Heat transfer ratio of section m–n over d–i: $Cf_{mn/di}$

2.4.3 Iteration Errors

As mentioned already, A_{ad} , A_{di} , A_{ij} , and A_{eh} are constant under all conditions and they are used to set up OD convergence criteria. In addition, the two DP convergence criteria also need to be satisfied under OD conditions. Therefore, the following six iteration errors are identified:

- $\Delta Y_1 = (A_{ad_OD} - A_{ad})/A_{ad}$
- $\Delta Y_2 = (A_{di_OD} - A_{di})/A_{di}$
- $\Delta Y_3 = (A_{ij_OD} - A_{ij})/A_{ij}$
- $\Delta Y_4 = (A_{eh_OD} - A_{eh})/A_{eh}$
- $\Delta Y_5 = (CA_{ef/eh} - CA_{dm/di})/CA_{dm/di}$
- $\Delta Y_6 = (CA_{fg/eh} - CA_{mn/di})/CA_{mn/di}$

2.4.4 Off-design Performance Calculation Algorithm

Figure 4 illustrates the calculation flowchart of the OD performance calculation of a parallel dual-pressure OTSG with detailed description given as follows:

- (1) The initial values of the six variables W_{HP} , W_{LP} , $Cf_{di/cj}$, $Cf_{ij/cj}$, $Cf_{dm/di}$, and $Cf_{mn/di}$ take their values at DP point to start the calculation.
- (2) Sections (a–b–c–d) and (1–2–3–4)

At a changing OD condition, the desired HP steam temperature T_a is determined by Eq. (25) where the value of the controlled temperature “484 °C” is case specific and may be different for different power plants. If such

a desired value of T_a is not satisfied, the feed water mass flow rate will be adjusted by a feedback control to obtain such T_a .

$$\begin{cases} T_a = T_1 - 14 & T_1 \leq 500^\circ\text{C} \\ T_a = 484 & T_1 > 500^\circ\text{C} \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

If an OTSG inlet gas flow rate drops due to the reduction of upstream gas turbine load, less steam will be generated by the OTSG, and consequently the steam pressure has to respond for keeping the same steam flow capacity represented by Eq. (26) [23]. This refers to sliding control that is widely used for steam cycle OD operation [24].

$$\frac{W \cdot \sqrt{T}}{P} = \frac{W_{DP} \cdot \sqrt{T_{DP}}}{P_{DP}} \cdot EF \quad (26)$$

where W is the steam mass flow rate, T the steam temperature, P the steam pressure, and EF the erosion factor of the downstream steam turbine [25]. The increase of EF represents steam turbine erosion regarded as degradation.

The HP steam pressure P_a can be determined, if T_a and W_{HP} are available for Eq. (26). Once the steam pressure is known, the saturation temperature at points b, and c can be calculated. Based on the heat balance between the hot side (1–2) and cold side (a–b), T_2 can be obtained by Eq. (6). Following the same procedure, T_3 can be determined based on the heat balance between the hot side (2–3) and cold side (b–c).

Since the OTSG inlet feed water temperature is given, the Q_{cj} needed for the HP economizer can be calculated by T_c , T_j , and W_{HP} . Hence, the Q_{cd} can be obtained by Eq. (15). Then, T_d , and T_4 are determined in the same way as that in the DP performance calculation.

(3) *Sections (d–m–n–i), (e–f–g–h) and (4–5–6–7)*

Q_{di} and T_i can be obtained in the same way as that in DP calculation. The LP steam temperature T_e is obtained by setting the constant difference between T_4 and T_e . Then P_e can be decided by Eq. (26). Correspondingly, saturation temperature T_f and T_g can be easily obtained. Based on the known temperature (i.e. T_e , T_f , T_g , and T_h) and the guessed value of W_{LP} , the value of Q_{ef} , Q_{fg} , and Q_{gh} can be determined by Eq. (6). Based on the guessed $Cf_{dm/di}$ and $Cf_{mn/di}$, Q_{dm} , Q_{mn} , Q_{ni} , T_m and T_n are obtained. T_5 can be calculated based on Eq. (19). Similarly, T_6 is obtained via the heat balance between the hot section (5–6) and cold sections (f–g) and (m–n). In addition, T_7 can be obtained by Eq. (20).

(4) *Sections (i–j) and (7–8)*

Q_{ij} is obtained by using Q_{cj} and guessed $Cf_{ij/cj}$. Then, T_8 can be calculated by Eq. (21).

(5) *Heat Transfer Areas*

At the end of the above calculations, the heat transfer areas (i.e. A_{ad_OD} , A_{di_OD} , A_{ij_OD} , A_{eh_OD}), and the ratios of heat transfer areas (i.e. $CA_{ef/eh}$, $CA_{dm/di}$, $CA_{fg/eh}$, and $CA_{mn/di}$) can be calculated.

(6) *Convergence Criteria and Iterations*

Following the above calculations, the six OD errors ΔY_k and the corresponding RMS can be calculated by Eq. (12). If the RMS is less than the threshold, the OD calculation finishes and the OTSG efficiency will be obtained by Eq. (9). Otherwise, the six iteration variables are updated by Eq. (13) and the calculation will be repeated from Step (2) following the Newton Raphson method until convergence is achieved.

2.4.5 *Average Prediction Error*

To assess the quality of the final solutions, an average prediction error $\bar{\gamma}_i$ for each measurement parameter at multiple OD points is defined by Eq. (27).

$$\bar{\gamma}_i = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^N \left| \frac{\bar{Z}_i - Z_i}{\bar{Z}_i} \right| \times 100\% \quad (27)$$

where N is the number of OD points, \bar{Z}_i is measured parameter, and Z_i is simulated value of the same parameter.

2.5 Overview of the Method

For DP performance calculation, two variables $Cf_{dm/di}$ and $Cf_{mn/ni}$ are identified to determine the DP performance of the OTSG and two errors related to the two ratio of heat transfer areas. For OD performance calculations, six variables W_{HP} , W_{LP} , $Cf_{di/cj}$, $Cf_{ij/cj}$, $Cf_{dm/di}$, and $Cf_{mn/di}$ are identified to determine the OD performance of the OTSG and six errors related to the consistency of heat transfer areas of circuit sections (a–d), (d–i), (i–j) and (e–h), and two ratio of heat transfer areas. Newton Raphson algorithm is used to reduce the errors and achieve the converged solutions of the DP and OD performance calculations.

3. Application and Analysis

The introduced performance simulation method has been applied to an OTSG installed in a CCGT power plant at Manx Utilities, Isle of Man in the United Kingdom. Some key performance data of the plant are showed in Table 1 [12],[26]. The power plant has General Electric LM2500+ aero-derivative GT engine as the prime mover providing

exhaust gas to the OTSG for generating high pressure and high temperature steam driving a steam turbine for electricity generation.

3.1 Once-through Steam Generator and Measurement

The parallel dual-pressure OTSG manufactured by Innovative Steam Technologies (IST) is shown in Fig. 1 [12]. Table 1 shows relevant data used as input for the OTSG DP performance calculation.

3.2 Design Point Performance Calculation and Validation

The OTSG DP performance was calculated following the flowchart showed in Fig. 3. During the DP calculations, the two variables ($Cf_{dm/di}$ and $Cf_{mn/di}$) are searched by Newton Raphson method to reduce the RMS error defined by Eq. (12). Table 2 shows the obtained simulation results of the DP performance calculation for the five measurement parameters compared with the data provided by IST and the plant operator [12],[26],[27]. The relative errors shown in Table 2 demonstrate that all the prediction errors are quite small, with the maximum error on T_8 being less than 0.8%. It indicates that the DP simulation model and the results are satisfactory. The obtained values of the two variables are also showed in Tables 3.

3.3 Off-design Performance Simulation and Validation

For the OD performance calculations, the values of input parameters listed in Section 2.4.1 are given. Due to confidentiality reasons, only the ranges of the OD input parameters are given in Table 4.

The OD performance was calculated following the flowchart showed in Fig. 4 where a solution of six state variables is searched by Newton Raphson method in order to satisfy the convergence criteria shown in Eq. (12). By satisfying the convergence criteria, the calculated total heat transfer areas A_{ad} , A_{di} , A_{ij} , and A_{eh} are kept unchanged at OD operating conditions, although the internal boundaries between the economizer, evaporator, and superheater in both the HP and LP circuits may change.

In this study, 292 sets of OTSG measurements were chosen from three-day steady state OD operations of the plant in August 2017 for the model validation, where the gas flow rate W_{exh} , exhaust gas temperature T_1 , ambient temperature T_{amb} , and feed water temperature vary during the operations. P_a and P_e are determined by Eq. (26) when mass flow rate and steam temperature are available. The desired HP steam temperature are kept by adjusting W_{HP} and W_{LP} . T_8 and T_e are determined for different W_{HP} and W_{LP} values during OD calculations. As the result of the OD

performance calculations, the satisfactory consistency between the test data and the simulated results of W_{HP} , W_{LP} , P_a , P_e , T_g , and T_e are demonstrated in Figs. 5-7. The maximum average error defined by Eq. (27) for individual parameters is less than 1.5% as shown in Fig. 8 demonstrating good prediction accuracies.

3.4 Impact of Gas Turbine Power Setting and Steam Turbine Erosions

3.4.1 Impact of Gas Turbine Power Setting

To illustrate the impact of power plant operating conditions on the performance of the OTSG, changing exhaust gas conditions indicated by dropping the prime mover (i.e. a gas turbine) power output is simulated by Cranfield's gas turbine performance simulation software PYTHIA **Error! Reference source not found.** Meanwhile, the gas turbine exhaust conditions are applied to the input of the OTSG to assess the changes of OTSG performance at OD conditions.

Figure 9 shows the impact of gas turbine power drop on exhaust gas temperature and exhaust gas mass flow rate simulated by the gas turbine performance model. It is assumed that the OTSG feed water condition and steam turbine flow capacity maintain the same. It can be seen that the steam properties such as steam mass flow rate, total pressure and total temperature decrease with the reduction of gas turbine power illustrated in Figs. 10 (a) – (c) where the gas turbine power changes from 32 MW (DP condition) to 22 MW. Figure 10 (d) shows the decreasing of OTSG stack temperature T_g and OTSG efficiency η with the reduction of gas turbine power setting. In addition, the moving boundary between the economizer, evaporator and superheater in the OTSG demonstrated by the variations of the heat transfer areas A_{ab} , A_{bc} , A_{cj} , A_{ef} , A_{fg} and A_{gh} are shown in Figs. 10 (e) – (f) respectively while the total heat transfer areas A_{aj} and A_{eh} are unchanged.

3.4.2 Impact of Steam Turbine Erosion

Erosion is a degradation phenomenon in a steam turbine, and it increases steam turbine flow capacity. Such an increase is represented by the change of Erosion factor EF . It is assumed that the exhaust gas conditions maintain the same as GT DP, so the HP steam temperature is maintained at its DP value. Three cases are demonstrated in Fig. 11 that covers (1) HP part of steam turbine erosion only, (2) LP part of steam turbine erosion only, and (3) both the HP and LP parts of steam turbine erosion. No erosion is represented by the erosion factor being 1.0 in Fig. 11.

When steam turbine erosion happens, OTSG has to reach a new equilibrium condition resulting in an increase of steam mass flow rate. Due to the sliding control shown by Eq. (25) the steam pressure has to drop in order to satisfy the increasing steam flow capacity. The reduction of steam pressure is shown in Fig. 11 (a) for all three cases. Figures

11 (b) – (c) show the HP erosion would lead to an increase of W_{HP} and a decrease of W_{LP} and the LP erosion will result in an increase of W_{LP} and a reduction of W_{MP} . Meanwhile, the change of W_{HP} and W_{LP} for third cases is the combined effect of HP and LP steam turbine erosions. Figure 11 (d) shows the LP steam temperature T_e is dropping for all three cases because the decrease of HP steam pressure increases the heat transfer in evaporator and superheater, and therefore results in a reduction in T_4 . It can be seen in Fig. 11 (e) that the OTSG stack temperatures decrease with the increase of erosion factor in all three cases when the OTSG inlet gas conditions are kept unchanged, which indicates an increasing OTSG efficiency in Fig. 11 (f). This means that the erosion results in decreasing steam pressures and therefore increase the heat transfer and therefore improve the efficiency of the OTSG.

4. Conclusions

In this study, a novel algorithm for the DP and OD thermodynamic performance simulation of a parallel dual-pressure OTSG is presented. It considers dual pressure parallel circuits and moving boundaries between the economizer, evaporator, and superheater of both the HP and LP steam circuits. The new method has been applied to the simulation and prediction of the performance of an OTSG installed in a CCGT power plant located at MU, Isle of Man, United Kingdom. A comparison between the predictions and the OTSG field data show that the proposed method offers good prediction accuracy in the OTSG performance simulations with the maximum average prediction error being less than 1.5%. The simulated results also demonstrate the impact of the gas turbine prime mover on the OTSG performance and the floating boundaries between the economizer, evaporator and superheater of both the OTSG HP and LP circuits at part load operating conditions. Moreover, the obtained results show that the downstream steam turbine erosion by 10% would increase the OTSG efficiency by 0.35-0.8%. The proposed simulation method can simulate the performance of new or existing dual pressure OTSG systems with parallel circuit configurations at both DP and OD operating conditions.

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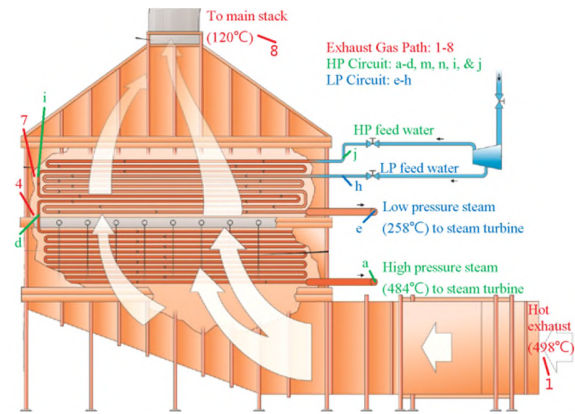


Fig. 1 Schematic of Once-through Steam Generator (OTSG) [12].

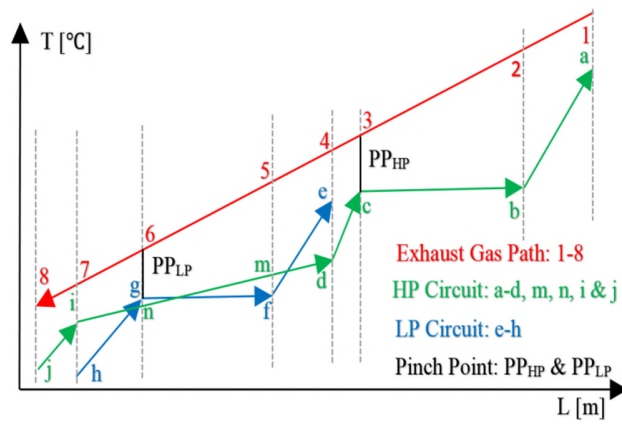


Fig. 2 OTSG Temperature Profiles along OTSG Gas Path.

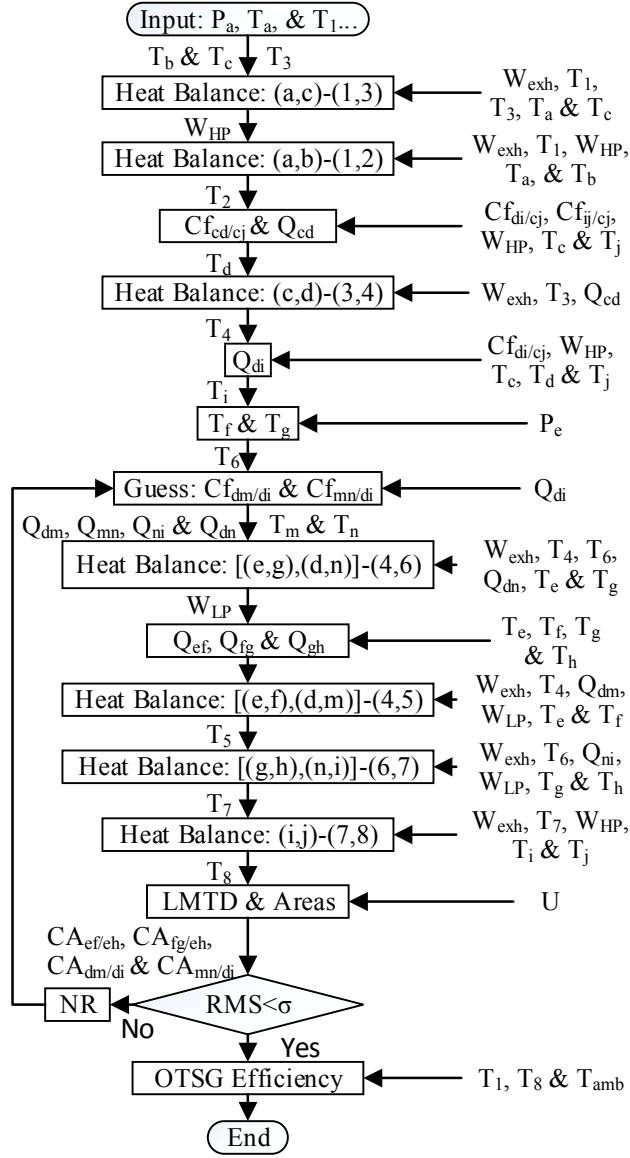


Fig. 3 OTSG Design Point (DP) Performance Calculation.

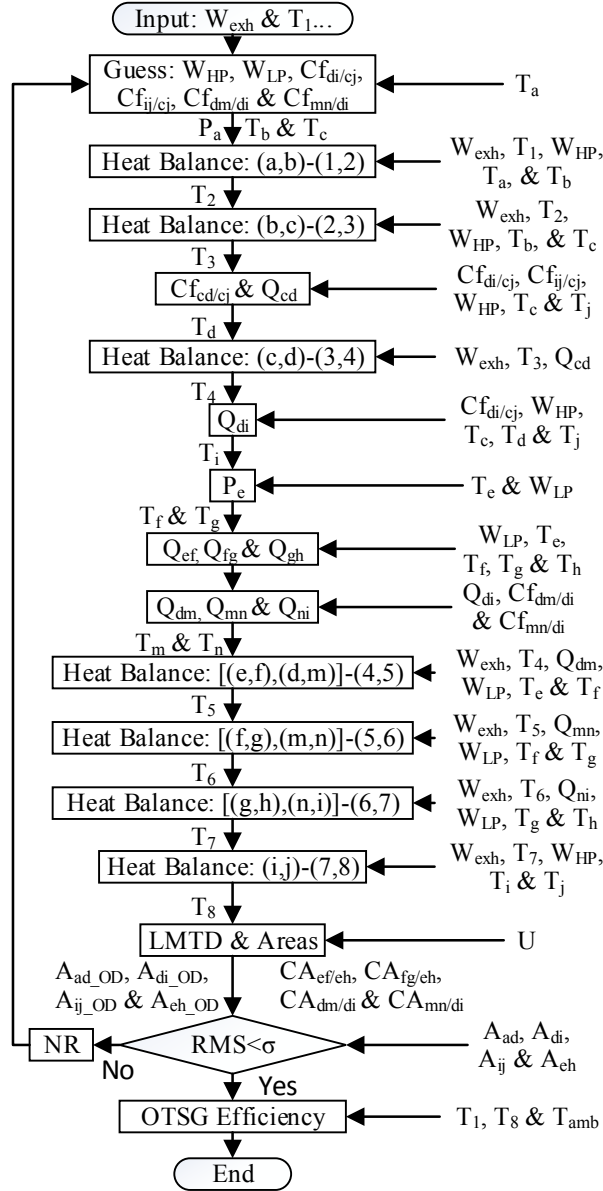


Fig. 4 OTSG Off-Design (OD) Performance Calculation.

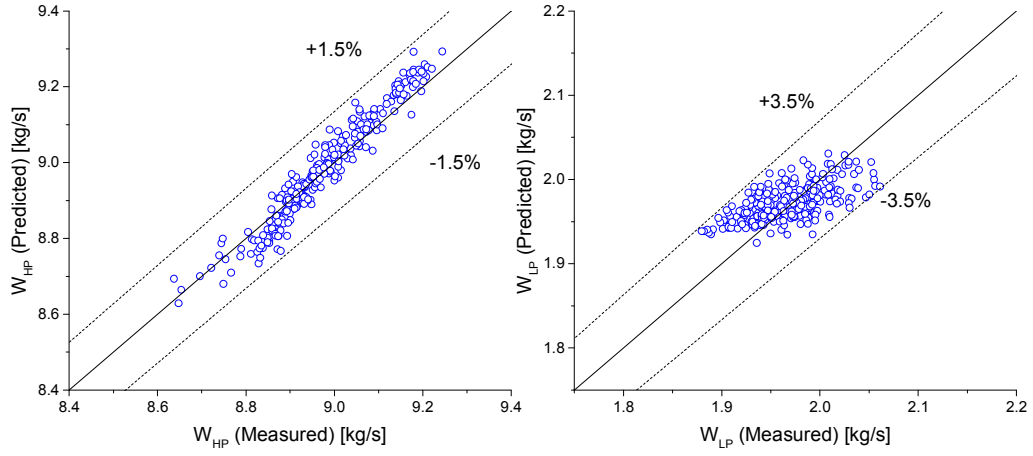


Fig. 5 Comparison between Measured and Predicted Results (W_{HP} and W_{LP}).

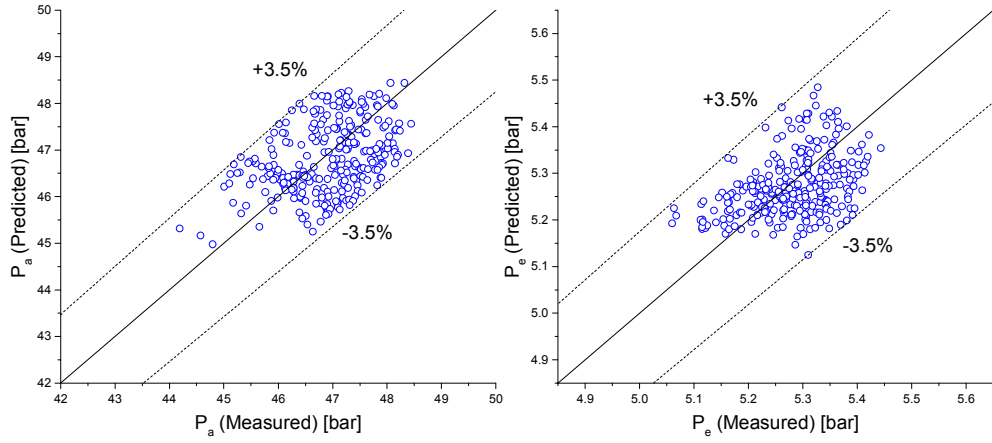


Fig. 6 Comparison between Measured and Predicted Results (P_a and P_e).

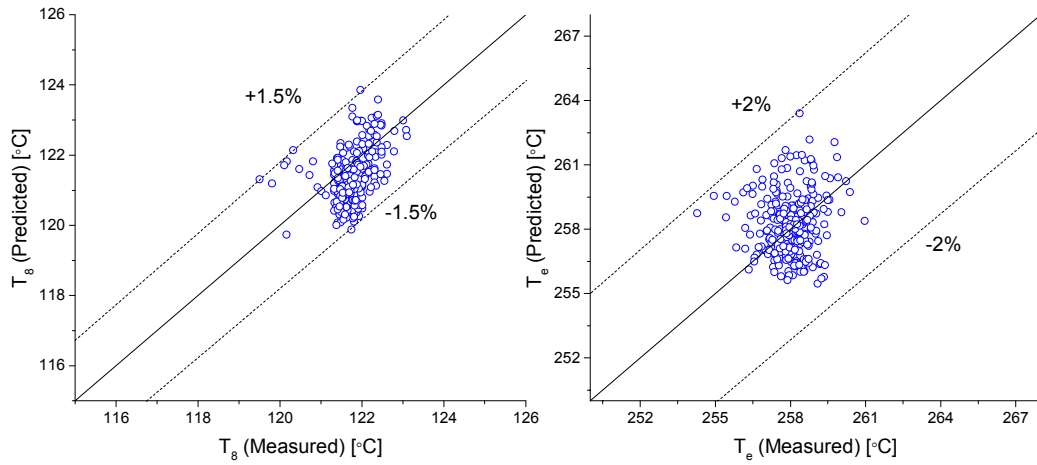


Fig. 7 Comparison between Measured and Predicted Results (T_8 and T_e).

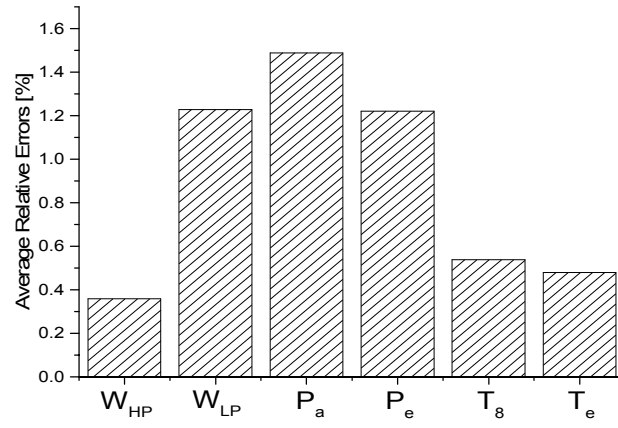


Fig. 8 Average Relative Errors of 292 Test Points.

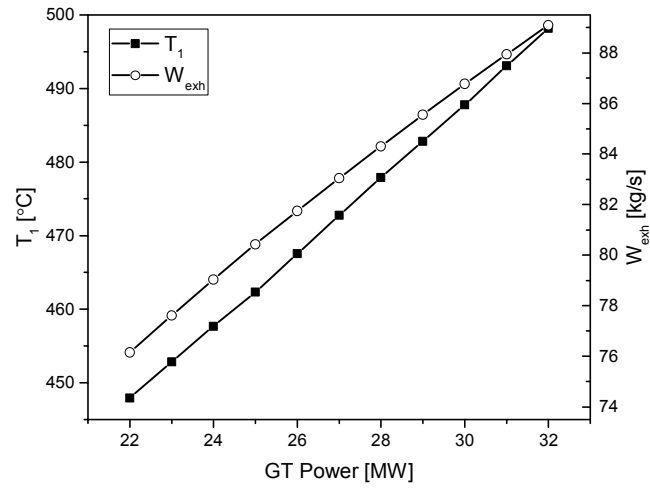


Fig. 9 Effect of Gas Turbine (GT) Power on Exhaust Gas T_1 and W_{exh} .

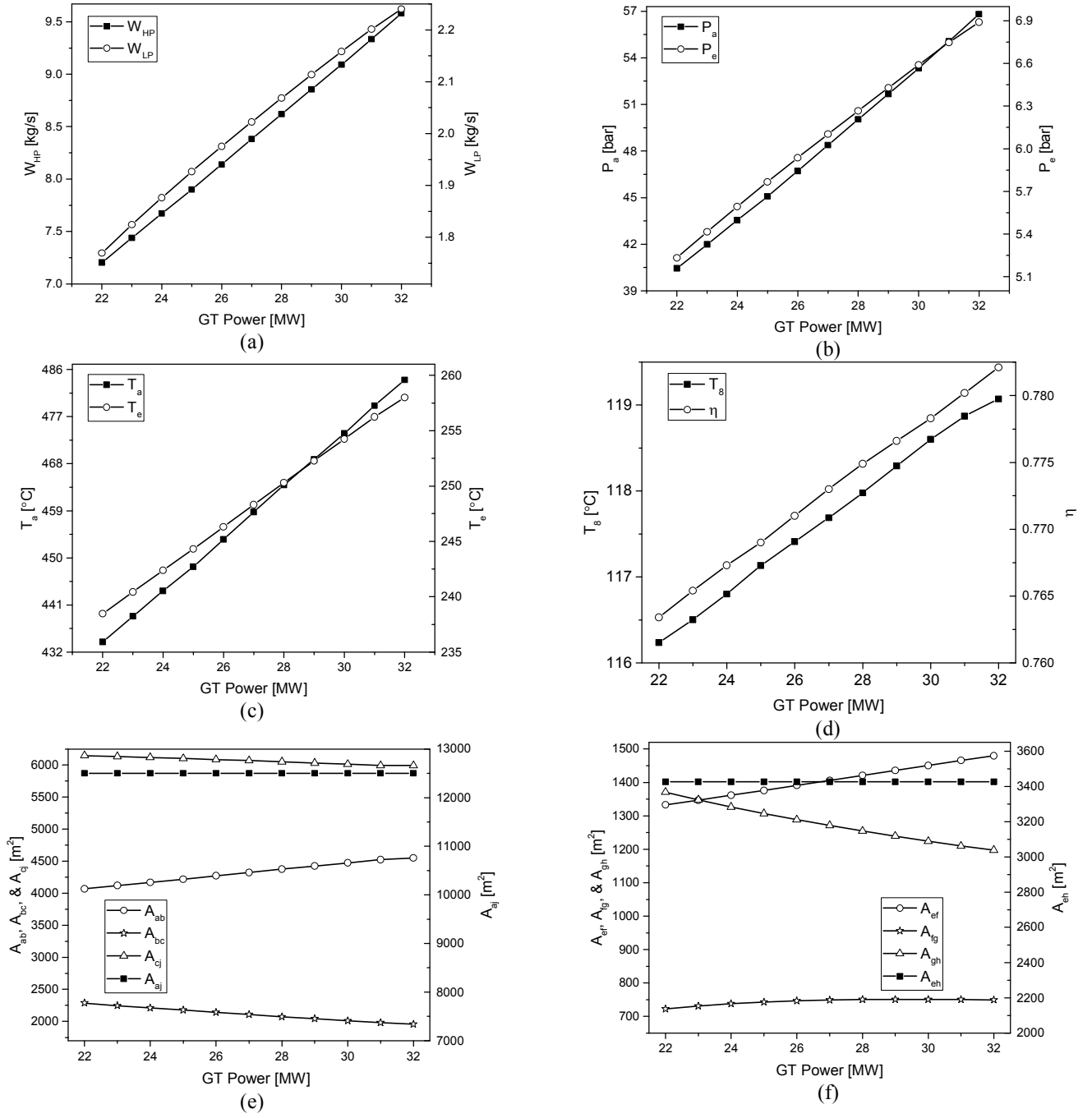


Fig. 10 Effect of Gas Turbine (GT) Power on OTSG Performance.

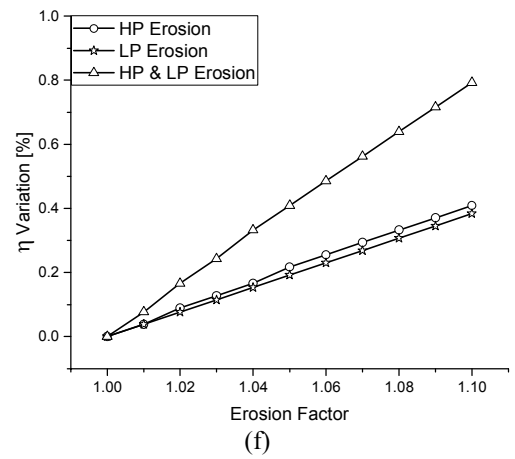
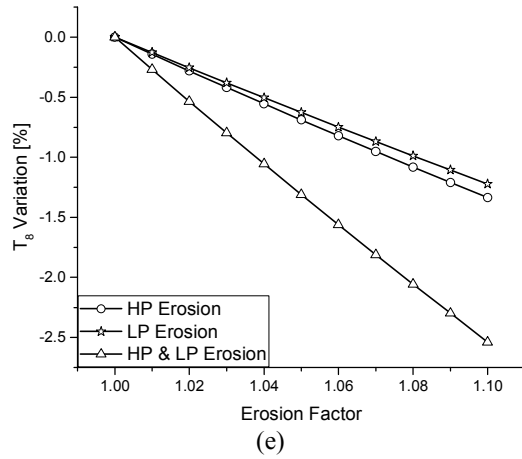
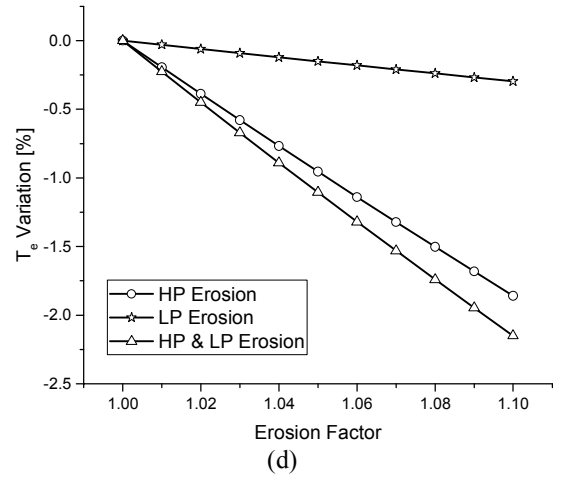
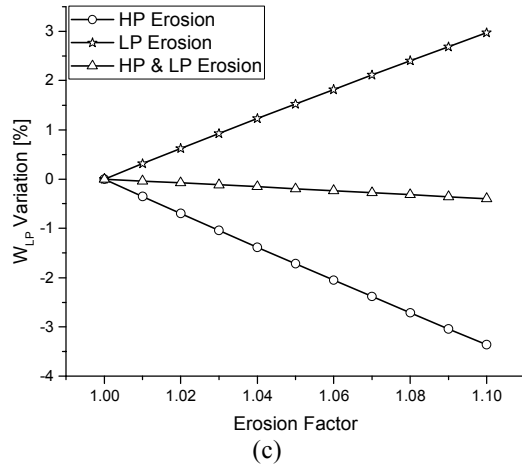
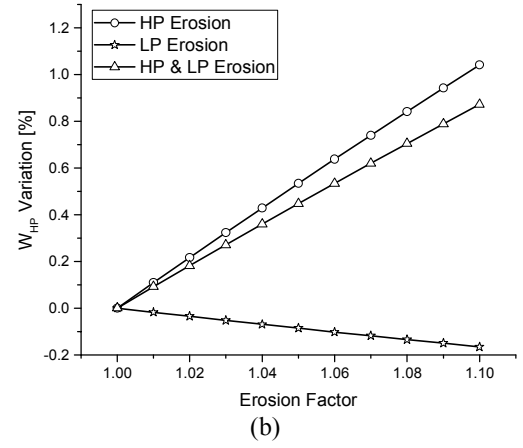
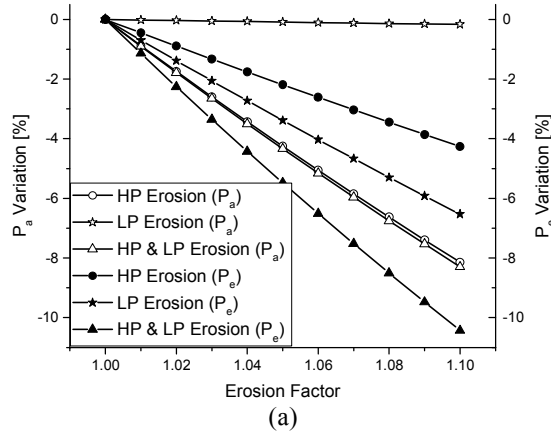


Fig. 11 Effect of Erosion Factor (EF) on OTSG Performance.

Table 1 CCGT Power Plant Design Point Performance Data (at ISO sea level condition) [12] [26]

Symbol	Parameter	Value	Unit
PO_{GT}	Gas Turbine Power Output	32	MW
PR	Gas Turbine Compressor Pressure Ratio	23.1	-
T_1	Exhaust Gas Temperature	498.0	°C
W_{exh}	Exhaust Gas Mass Flow Rate	89.1	Kg/s
T_a	HP Steam Temperature	484.0	°C
P_a	HP Steam Pressure	56.81	bar
PP_{HP}	HP Pinch	16.0	°C
T_j	HP Feed Water Temperature	36.0	°C
T_e	LP Steam Temperature	258.0	°C
P_e	LP Steam Pressure	6.89	bar
PP_{LP}	LP Pinch	21.0	°C
T_h	LP Feed Water Temperature	36.0	°C
PO_{ST}	Steam Turbine Power Output	23	MW
P_{cond}	Steam Turbine Condenser Pressure	0.06	bar
χ	Condenser Steam Wetness	11.70	%

Table 2 Comparison between Simulation and Measurement at DP [12][26][27]

Parameter	Prediction	Measured Value	Errors (%)
W_{HP}	9.5809	9.58 ^{[12],[26]}	0.009
W_{LP}	2.2403	2.25 ^{[12],[26]}	0.431
T_8	119.07	120 ^{[12],[26]}	0.772
A_{aj}	12500.0	12500 ^[27]	0.000
A_{eh}	3426.03	3426 ^[27]	0.000

Table 3 Variables for OTSG DP Performance Calculation

Parameter	Initial Guess	After Convergence
$Cf_{dm/di}$	0.35	0.4960
$Cf_{mn/di}$	0.35	0.1903

Table 4 Range of Operating Conditions for 292 Off-Design Points

Parameter	Unit	Range
T_1	°C	504.5 – 516.5
T_{amb}	°C	14.3 – 17.3
Ambient Pressure	bar	1.00 – 1.02
Relative Humidity	%	58.40 – 88.44
W_{exh}	kg/s	75.49 – 80.44
Gas Turbine Power	MW	26.44 – 29.39
T_j	°C	43.4 – 46.4
T_h	°C	43.4 – 46.4